

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph on page 3 beginning at line 14 with the following amended paragraph:

a synthetic polyamide polymer pre-treated in a solid phase polycondensation apparatus at a system pressure in the range of about 100 to about 125 kPascal (14.7 to 18 pounds per inch² absolute), and especially about 115 kPascal ~~kPascal~~ (16.5 pounds per inch² absolute), with a purge gas;

Please replace the paragraph on page 5 beginning at line 17 with the following amended paragraph:

The yarn produced according to the process represented by Figures 2a and 2b is a drawn yarn with elongation of 22 to about 60%, the boiling water shrinkage is in the range of 3 to about 10%, the yarn tenacity is the range of ~~of~~ 3 to about 7 grams per denier, and the RV of the yarn can be varied and controlled well within a range of about 40 to about 60. A derived parameter characterizing the superior properties of this yarn is called the Yarn Quality and found by the product of the yarn tenacity (grams per denier) and the square root of the % elongation, as in Equation 1.

Please replace the paragraph on page 9 beginning at line 26 with the following amended paragraph:

The data from Example 3 (points denoted by X) and Comparative Example 1 (a point denoted by Z) are plotted in Figure 1b; the time to 10% bent filaments versus the yarn quality (Equation 1). It can be seen that it is most ~~desireable~~ desirable to have a low total system pressure in the SPP, ca. 114 kPascal and to have a high nitrogen gas purge flow rate, ca. 2.5 (kg N₂/hour) per (kg of polymer/hour) in order to provide a yarn of sufficiently high yarn quality or toughness and to have at the same time a longer spinneret wipe cycle; as shown by the time to 10% bent filaments.

Please replace the paragraph on page 10 beginning at line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

As a result of these modifications to the operation of the SPP apparatus an increased productivity spinning process is realized. Most importantly, the need to interrupt the process continuity is reduced to about 2 times per 24 hour period from that of 6 or more times per 24 hour period. Furthermore, a yarn of higher "quality" ~~(toughness)~~ (toughness) is obtained compared with the prior means of operating the SPP apparatus and spinning system.